

AN
Historical Description
OF THE
TOWER OF LONDON,
AND ITS
CURIOSITIES.
Giving an ACCOUNT,

578. b. 1
1787

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Of its Foundation, gradual Increase, and present State.2. Of its Government, Customs, and Privileges.3. Of its Antiquities, Records, and Curiosities.4. Of the Lions, and other wild Beasts, kept there; their Nature and Properties.5. Of the Spoils of the Spanish Armada, with the History of the Spanish Invasion in 1588.6. Of the small Armory; in which, at one View, may be seen Arms for 80,000 Men.7. Of the Royal Train of Ar- | <ol style="list-style-type: none">tillery; comprehending the various Engines of Destruction used in War.8. Of the Horse Armory; with curious Anecdotes relating to the Kings that sit there on Horseback in full Armour, from <i>William the Conqueror</i>, to his late Majesty.9. Of the Jewel Office, and the Regalia, used at the Coronation of our Kings; and the Story of Col. Blood's attempting to steal away the Crown.10. Of the Mint, and the Manner of stamping Money. |
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Written chiefly to direct the Attention of Strangers to what is most curious in this Repository, and to enable them afterwards to describe what they have seen.

L O N D O N :

Printed for THOMAS CARNAN, in St. Paul's Church-yard. 1787.

[Price Six Pence.]

Prices of seeing the CURIOSITIES.

Lions, each Person	- -	Six-Pence.
Foot-Armory,	{ *	Three pence.
Train of Artillery,		Two-pence.
Horse Armory,		Three-pence.
Spanish Armory,		Two-pence.

Regalia, in Company, each Person, One Shilling.

-----Single, One Shilling and Six-pence.

N. B. *But if a single Person is shewn the Foot-Armory, Train of Artillery, Horse Armory, and Spanish Armory, he pays for each double the Price above-mentioned.*

- These four Sums are all to be paid at the Spanish Armory, viz. Ten-pence.

T H E
P R E F A C E.

THE Desire of searching ancient Repositories for the Antiquities of our Country is allowed to be a laudable Curiosity: to point them out therefore to the Inquisitive, and to direct their Attention to those Things that best deserve Notice, cannot be denied its Degree of Merit.

The Tower of London, for the antique Remains that are there treasured up, has been, for many Ages past, the common Resort of Foreigners, as well as Natives; but it is a general Complaint, that the Mind, being crouded with too many Objects at once, cannot distinguish, amidst so great a Variety, what is worthy to be dwelt upon, and what is of less Note; and the Hurry with which Strangers are conducted by their Guides from one Curiosity to another, occasioned by the Numbers that are hourly flocking there to be entertained, leaves the Spectator no Time to examine what he sees, nor to fix in his Memory half the Objects that have attracted his Attention. To remove this Complaint, therefore, and to enable every Person to recollect with Advantage whatever is worthy to be remembered, this little Book is now offered to the Public; which, in other respects likewise, will not be wholly without its Use; for by comparing, as the Reader has here an Opportunity of doing, the traditional Stories of the Guides, with the historical Facts to which they

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relate,

relate, he will be naturally led to imprint this useful Observation strongly in his Mind, how little he ought to trust to Memory in Things that are of Importance enough to be remembered, and how careful to commit to Writing all his Concerns that on any future Occasion he would wish to recollect.

It would be impertinent to trouble the Reader with a long Preface on a Subject that to some may appear immaterial. We shall conclude therefore with observing, that Pains have been taken to examine every Fact to which the Traditions at the Tower have any Allusion; to illustrate them where they are obscure; to supply them where they are defective; and to correct them where they are misrepresented. And, besides, we have introduced Anecdotes, pertinent to the Subject, wherever Opportunity offered, in order to render the whole entertaining as well as useful.

A N

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

TOWER OF LONDON.

THE Foundation of the Tower of *London*, according to the most authentic Records, was marked out, and that part of the building called the *White Tower* erected by *William* the Conqueror in the year 1076, with a view, no doubt, to secure to himself and his followers a safe retreat, in case of any surprize from the *English*, while he was employed in settling the Government of his new conquests.

That this was his design in building the Tower, appears from its situation, its extent, and its communication with the river *Thames*, from whence it might be supplied with all kinds of succours of men, provisions, and military stores. But how it could command the city, the bridge, and the river, so early as *William* the Conqueror's time, before the use of guns, as authors of good credit have asserted, I must own, I cannot comprehend; and, I believe, whoever views it attentively, even in its present circumstances, will agree with me, that it was rather planned for a place of defence than offence. But to wave conjectures. The death of the Conqueror in 1088, about eight years after this fortress was begun, put a stop to the progress of the work for a while, and left the completion of it to that great genius in geometrical knowledge *William Rufus*, son

to *William* the Conqueror, who in 1098 surrounded it with walls, and fortified it with a broad and deep ditch. Since his time, indeed, the number of buildings within the walls has been gradually and greatly increased, so that it seems now rather a town than a fortress. It should be remarked, that this last mentioned Monarch built *Westminster-Hall*, also at that time the admiration of all *Europe*.

The Tower, as it is now fortified with cannon, is perhaps the best chosen situation for such a fortress of any in the world. It lies to the Eastward of *London*, near enough to cover that opulent city from invasion by water, being 800 yards only from the bridge; and to the north of the river *Thames*, from which it is parted by a narrow ditch, and a convenient wharf, to which it has a communication by a draw-bridge, for the readier issuing and receiving ammunition and naval or military stores. On this wharf, there is lately made a long and beautiful platform, on which are planted 61 pieces of cannon, mounted on new and very elegant iron carriages. The pieces of ordnance are chiefly used to fire on days of state, or to promulgate any joyful news to the public. Parallel to the wharf, within the walls, is a platform 70 yards in length, called the *Ladies Line*, because much frequented by the Ladies in the summer, as *within* it is shaded with a lofty row of trees, and *without* it has a delightful prospect of the shipping, with boats passing and repassing on the river *Thames*. You ascend this line by stone steps, and being once upon it you may walk almost round the walls of the Tower without interruption, and in your course will pass three batteries; the first called the *Devil's Battery*, where is also a platform, on which are
mounted

mounted seven pieces of cannon, tho' on the battery itself are only five; the next is called the *Stone Battery*, and is defended by eight pieces of cannon; and the third and last is called the *Wooden Battery*, mounted with six pieces of cannon: all these are nine-pounders.

The principal entrance into the Tower is by a gate to the west, large enough to admit coaches and heavy carriages; but these are first admitted thro' an outer gate, and must pass a stout stone bridge, built over the ditch, before they can approach the main entrance. There is besides an entrance for persons on foot, over the draw-bridge already mentioned, to the wharf, which wharf is only divided from the main land by gates at each end, opened every day at a certain hour for the convenience of a free intercourse between the respective inhabitants of the Tower, the city, and its suburbs. There is also a water-gate, commonly called *Traitors Gate*, thro' which it has been customary to convey traitors, and other state prisoners, to or from the Tower, perhaps for greater privacy, and which is seldom opened on any other occasion; but the Lords, committed to the Tower on account of the rebellion in 1745, were publickly admitted at the main entrance. Over this gate is a regular building, terminated at each end by two bastions, or round towers, on which are embrasures for pointing cannon, but there are at present none mounted. In this building are placed the infirmary, the mill, and water-works that supply the Tower with water.

Great ceremony is used at opening and shutting the principal gate night and morning. A little before six in the morning in summer, and as soon as it is light in winter, the yeoman porter goes to the governor's house for the keys,

from whence he proceeds to the innermost gate, attended by a serjeant and six men of the guard : this gate being opened to let them pass is again shut, while the yeoman porter and the guard proceed to open the three outermost gates, at each of which the guards rest their firelocks, as do the spur-guard, while the keys pass and repass. Upon the yeoman porter's return to the innermost gate, he calls to the wardens in waiting, to take in King George's keys ; upon which the gate is opened, and the keys lodged in the warder's hall till the time of locking, which is usually about 10 or 11 at night, with the same finality as when opened. After they are shut, the yeoman and guard proceed to the main guard, who are all under arms with the officers upon duty at their head. The usual challenge from the main guard to the yeoman porter is, *Who comes there ?* His answer is, *the Keys*. The challenger says, *Pass keys* ; upon which the officer orders the guard to rest their firelocks ; the yeoman porter then says, *God save King George ! Amen*, is loudly answered by all the guard. From the main guard the yeoman porter with his guard proceeds to the governor's, where the keys are left ; after which no person can go out or come in upon any pretence whatsoever till next morning, without the watch-word for the night, which is kept so secret, that none but the proper officers and the serjeant upon guard ever come to the knowledge of it ; for it is the same on the same night in every fortified place throughout the King's dominions. When that is given by any stranger to the centinel at the spur-guard (or outer-gate), he communicates it to his serjeant, who passes it to the next on duty, and so on till it comes to the governor, or commanding officer, by whom the keys are delivered

livered to the yeoman porter, who attends as before; the main guard being put under arms, brings them to the outer gate where the stranger is admitted, and conducted to the commandant. Having made known his business, he is conducted to the outer-gate, dismissed, the gate shut, and the keys re-delivered with all the formality as at first.

The principal officers to whom the government and care of the Tower is committed are, first, the *Constable of the Tower*, who is usually of the highest quality, as his post at all coronations and other state ceremonies is of the utmost consequence, having the crown and other regalia in his custody. He hath under him a lieutenant, and deputy lieutenant, commonly called governor, whose officers are likewise of great dignity, a tower-major, gentleman porter, yeoman porter, gentleman jailer, four quarter gunners, and 40 wardens, whose uniform is the same with the king's yeomen of the guard: upon their heads they wear round flat-crowned caps, tied round with bands of party-coloured ribbands: their coats are of a particular make, but very becoming, with large sleeves, and flowing skirts, are of fine scarlet cloth, laced round the edges and seams with several rows of gold lace, and girt round their waists with a broad-laced girdle. Upon their breasts and backs they wear the king's silver badge, representing the thistle and rose, on which are the letters G R. in capitals.

Besides these, and other inferior domestic officers, if I may be allowed to call them so, there is always a battalion of foot-guards on duty quartered in barracks, which have been lately rebuilt. The principal buildings within the walls are the church, the White Tower, the

offices of ordnance, of the mint, of the keepers of the records, the jewel office, the horse-armory, the grand store house, the new or small armory, handsome houses for the chief officers residing in the Tower, with many other houses for the meaner officers, and barracks for soldiers on duty, besides prisons for state-delinquents, which are commonly the warders houses.

The Church has nothing very remarkable belonging to it.

The White Tower is a large square irregular building, situated almost in the center, no one side answering to another, nor are any of its watch-towers, of which there are four that ornament the top, built alike: one of these towers is now converted into an observatory, and indeed seems well adapted for the purpose.

The building itself consists of three very lofty stories, under which are most spacious and commodious vaults, chiefly filled with salt-petre. It is covered over at top with flat leads, from whence there is an extensive and delightful prospect.

In the first story are two spacious rooms, one of which is a small armory for the sea-service, having various sorts of arms, very curiously laid up in it, for more than 10,000 seamen. In the other room are closets and presses in abundance, all filled with warlike tools and instruments of death without number. Over these are two other floors, one filled principally with arms; the other with arms and armourers tools, such as chevaux de frize, pick-axes, spades, and shovels.—In the upper story are kept match, sheepskins, tanned hides, &c. and in a little room some records, containing perhaps the ancient usages

usages and privileges of the place. In this tower are likewise kept models of the new-invented engines of destruction that have from time to time been presented to the government.

On the top of this tower is a large cistern or reservoir for supplying the whole garrison with water in case of need; it is about 7 feet deep, 9 in breadth, and about 60 length, and is filled from the *Thames* by means of an engine very ingeniously contrived for that purpose, of which we have already spoken.

The office of Ordnance is kept in *Cold Harbour*; to which office all other offices for supplying artillery, arms, ammunition, or other warlike stores, to any part of his majesty's dominions, are accountable; from which office all orders for the disposition of warlike materials for every kind of service are issued.

The Mint is also a separate division, which comprehends near one third of the Tower, and contains houses for all the officers belonging to the coinage.

The office of Keeper of the Records is opposite the platform already described. It has lately been adorned with a fine carved stone door-case at the entrance, and finely wainscotted within. All the Rolls from king *John* to the beginning of the reign of *Richard III.* are deposited in 56 wainscot presses in this office; those since that time are kept at the Rolls in *Chancery-Lane.* The rolls and records kept in the Tower contain the antient tenures of all the lands in *England*, with a survey of the manors; the originals of all the laws and statutes; the rights of *England* to the dominion of the *British* seas; leagues and treaties with foreign princes; and achievements of *England* in foreign wars; ancient grants of our kings to their subjects; the forms of sub-

mission of the *Scottish* kings; writs and proceedings of the courts of common law and equity; the settlement of *Ireland* as to law and dominion; privileges and immunities granted to all cities and corporations during the period before-mentioned; with many other important records; all regularly disposed by the diligence of Sir *William Dugdale*, and others under his direction, and properly referred to in near a thousand folio indexes. A search here is half a guinea, for which you may peruse any one subject a year. In the months of *December*, *January*, and *February*, this office is open only six hours a day; but all the rest of the year, eight.

The Jewel-Office is a dark strong stone room, about 20 yards to the eastward of the grand store-house. The regalia kept in this office will be spoken of when we come to treat of the curiosities.

The Horse-Armory is a little eastward of the White Tower. It is a plain brick building, rather convenient than elegant. Its contents are likewise among the curiosities commonly shewn at the Tower; and will be distinctly described hereafter.

The grand store-house is a noble building to the northward of the White Tower, and extends in length 245 feet, in breadth 60. It was begun by king *James II.* and by that prince built to the first floor, but finished by king *William*, who erected that magnificent room called the *New or Small Armory*, in which he, with queen *Mary* his consort, on its being finished, dined in great form, having all the warrant workmen and labourers to attend them, dressed in white gloves and aprons, the usual badges of the order of free masonry. This noble struc-

ture is of brick and stone, and on the north side is a stately door-case adorned with four columns, an entablature and triangular pediment of the *Doric* order. Under the pediment is the King's arms, with enrichments of trophy work very ornamental.

The other buildings within the Tower having nothing remarkable, we shall proceed to the description of those curiosities that are usually shewn to strangers.

Of the LIONS and other wild beasts in the Tower.

THE first thing a stranger usually goes to see, whose curiosity leads him to view the rarities in this place, is the wild beasts, as by their situation they first present themselves; for when you have entered the outer-gate, and passed what is called the spur-guard, you will see the keeper's house just before you, which you will know by the figure of a lion being placed against the wall: and over the door where you are to enter is another figure of a lion; there you ring, and for 6d. each person you will presently gain admittance, and be shewn such a noble collection of wild creatures as is no where else to be seen in *Great Britain*.

At your entrance you are carried into a range of dens in the form of a half-moon, most of them inhabited by leopards, lions, and lionesses, of different ages, and different countries.

1st. *Sophia*, a beautiful Leopardess, brought over in the *Asia*, Capt. *Vandeput*, from the *East Indies*; the sailors used to make a pillow of her when on board, she being both tame and loose on the voyage.

2d. *Padora*, a beautiful Lioness, brought from *Senegal* by General *O'Hara*, as a present to his Majesty;

Majesty : she has bred five times in the *Tower* : first two, then three, then two, and twice three ; one brought up till as big as herself ; but all dead at this time.

3d. An extraordinary curiosity, a Black Leopard, called JACK, being spotted, though black ; but the spots are blacker than his coat, and is the first ever seen in the world. He was very shy, flying and jumping all round the den when shewn ; but is pretty tame now, owing to the diligence of the keepers. This leopard was sent by Governor *Hastings* as a present to his Majesty, and is esteemed a rare curiosity.

4th. Then you are shewn CÆSAR, a large he-lion, from *Senegal*, made a present to his Majesty by General *O'Hara*. This fine lion was the father of all the whelps *Padora* had.

THE LARGE YARD, OR SECOND RANGE.

1st. The Royal Tiger from *Madras*, sent as a present to his Majesty by Lord *M'Cartney*, the largest ever brought to *Europe*, and very savage, not liking to be disturbed when shewn.

2nd. NERO, a beautiful young he-lion, brought from *Bamba*, sent as a present to his Majesty by Governor *Hornby*, the largest mane of any ever brought to *Europe*.

3d. NANCY, a lioness, brought from *Senegal* by ——— *Bradley*, Esq; and presented to his Majesty ; she was brought up in Mr. *Bradley's* kitchen, and fed by the maids.

4th. A Leopardess, brought from the *East Indies* by Capt. *Morris*.

5th. A beautiful Royal Tiger from *Bengal*, brought by Capt. *Hurdcastle*, of the *Hillsborough*, and presented to his Majesty by Lord *Aylesbury*, reckoned to be the most beautiful tiger in all *England*.

6th. NERO, a beautiful he-leopard, the largest ever seen in *England*, brought from *Senegal* by Capt. Ryl-y.

7th. A Musk Monkey, having a large bag under his chin of musk, which smells very strong; and various others too tedious to mention.

Then you will come to the school of Monkeys.

8th. A red-faced, black, ring-tail Monkey, who can swing from tree to tree by his tail, which is of as much use as hands.

9th. Two black Bears from *North America*, and a white one from the northernmost Part of *Canada*, sent to his Majesty by Col. *Clanoe*, being the first ever seen of this colour in *England*.

10th. Two beautiful Tiger-cats, one from the River *Gambia*, sent to the Prince of *Wales* by Capt. *Gambier*; the other sent to his Majesty by General *Matthews*: both very savage, so that the keeper can scarcely touch them.

11th. A beautiful young Lioness, named FANNY, sent as a present to his Majesty by General *Rainsford*, from *Algiers*; and the Moor used always to sleep with her during the passage; and so tame, that she was brought to the Tower by the Moor led by a string; and after the Moor left her, she pined and would eat nothing for some time, but used to beat herself against the bars, fretting after him: but the keeper went into the den with a dog in his arms, when the creature immediately came to him, and fondled the dog, which has been with her ever since; and so much master is the dog, that he won't suffer her to eat first.

12th. A Hyena, brought from the Island of *Salset*, near *Bombay*, in the *East Indies*, presented to the Prince of *Wales* by Mr. *Gooch*, chief-mate

mate of the Lord *Camden* East Indiaman, being a very extraordinary animal, having bristles on his back like a wild hog, which, when he is angry, he sets upright; and his fore-legs are a deal longer than his hind ones; he has two joints more in each fore-leg than any other animal; he has long ears like an ass; his head much like a wolf, and strip'd like a zebra.

13th. The next are two little Raccoons, bred in the *Tower*; the father and mother were brought from *America*: they have a curious method of catching fish: when the sea has left the beach, the shell of the fish opening for air, the raccoon puts in a small stone, and takes the fish out of the shell and eats it; they likewise always wash their meat before they eat it, being remarkably cleanly.

14th. A Jackall, or Lion's Provider. How these animals came by the name of lion's provider, is not easy to be accounted for: they dare not approach the lion any more than any other wild inhabitant of the forest.

On the coast of *Malabar*, where these animals abound most, there are very few lions. It is said of them, that they there frequently assemble in the night near the villages and hamlets, making a piteous noise like children in distress; and when the inhabitants are alarmed and come forth, they fall upon the feeblest, to make them their prey.

In this manner, it is possible that their cries, when in search for prey, may rouse the lion, where lions are numerous, and give him notice where to direct his course; but the jackall, if he happens to come in the lion's way, has only his heels to trust to, any more than other animals of the ferocious kind.

European strangers have formerly been deceived

ceived by the cries of these animals, and have been surprized by them; but they are now so well known, that few accidents of that kind happen, except to hunters in the woods, who are sometimes attacked when off their guard; but they seldom or never have the courage to attack men openly. We have already taken notice of the nicety of the leopard with respect to his food. In this respect he seems to be equalled, if not exceeded, by the jackall, who washes his meat before he eats it.

15th. The Sand or Bear Hog, brought from *Bengal*, being a great curiosity, as it is the first ever seen here; he has talons to his feet like a bear; and his tail like a dog's; an amazing large long head, and his colour dirty-white; his ears like two holes, having no covering to them; he is like a mole, always seeking to hide itself; and so very shy, that he neither eats or drinks when any one looks at him, chiefly drinking, &c. in the night.

16th. An Eagle of the Sun, taken in a *French* prize by admiral *Boscawen*, and by him presented to his late Majesty. This bird is supposed to soar the highest of all the feathered tribe; and is able to look stedfastly at the sun, even in its most refulgent splendor; whence it obtained the name by which that species of eagles is distinguished. They are said, as soon as they hatch, to turn the heads of their young to the eastern sun; and, if they cannot bear the light and heat, they spurn them from the nest as a spurious race. Agreeable to this is that beautiful simile in *Dryden*:

*So when Jove's Bird on some tall cedar's head
Has a new race of generous Eagles bred;*

While

*While yet implum'd within the nest they lie,
 Wary she turns them to the eastern sky:
 Then, if unequal to the God of day,
 Abash'd they shrink, and shun the potent ray,
 She spurns them forth and casts them quite away. }
 But if with daring eye unmov'd they gaze,
 Withstand the light and bear the golden blaze,
 Tender she broods them with a parent's love,
 The future servants of her master Jove.*

Lambs, hares, fawns, pheasants, and even kids, are the ordinary food with which these birds bring up their young; and in the remote parts of *France*, if we may credit travellers, a gentleman, who happens to have an eagle's nest or two on his estate, thinks them equivalent to a good farm's rent. The game that the eagles bring home to their young serve both the eaglets and the family.

It is remarked by historians, that the eagles shed their feathers every year, as the hart does his horns, and the serpent his skin; and that they live to an exceeding great age. The Benedictine monks of the abbey of *St. Bertin*, at *St. Omer's*, had an eagle which they reported to be 300 years old. We are not sure that the Eagle of the Sun now shewn is the identical Eagle above described.

17th. One brown Eagle, a bird of prey, brought from the North of *Scotland*, the *Orkney Islands*, where they breed; the wings extended measure nine feet.

When this book was first written, the collection was in reality a noble collection; but it seems of late to be crumbling away and much neglected.

In the last place you were shewn a large Hyena, fierce animal, which is said to be endued with great subtilty; but the noise he makes alarms travellers, and gives them notice to avoid the danger; yet to those who are unacquainted with them, this noise may have a contrary effect; for they so perfectly imitate the human voice, by a sort of moan and groan which they make, that a stranger might easily mistake it for the voice of a human creature in extreme torture. Some say, that the hyena will dig human bodies out of their graves, and eat them; but perhaps this is only when pressed by the severity of hunger. He naturally limps upon one of his hind legs, notwithstanding which imperfection he is tolerably swift; his neck is remarkably stiff, so that, in looking behind, or snatching at any thing obliquely, he is obliged to move his whole body in the same manner as the hog or the badger. He is of a dun colour, inclining to be reddish, with some streaks of a dark brown; and the hair upon his neck is near a span long, and often sets up like hog's bristles.

We cannot quit this subject without lamenting the loss of a fine large Ostrich which lately died here, and of which we shall give some account, as we hope to see her habitation soon occupied by another. This creature was sent as a present to his late Majesty by the dey of *Tunis*. Her shape and colour was not very unlike that of the turkey breed, only greyer; but the size vastly larger, being formerly accounted the largest bird in the world, though later discoveries have proved the contrary. Its legs were the size of an ordinary jack-ass's, and very long, as was her neck, of which she had great command,

command, carrying it erect and stately like the swan, so that when she walked her bill was higher than the tallest man's head. You may judge of her bulk by her eggs, of which she laid 14 while she lived in *England*, several of which are now to be seen, each weighing upwards of five pounds, and when first laid weighed above six. She had a pretty large warm room to live in, which was often cleaned, and the straw therein shifted, otherwise she would soon have died; for the climate of this country seems by no means fitted to the tender nature of these birds, though by their large bones and vast bulk they appear to be very strong. There was some time ago a couple of them; but one died before the other, by swallowing a large nail that stopped its passage.

The vulgar error, that the ostrich can digest iron, has been long since exploded; for in the year 1659, the *Morocco* ambassador to the States General, among other rarities, having brought over to *Holland* an ostrich as a present, it died at *Amsterdam* in a few days, by swallowing iron nails, which the populace threw to it, upon a presumption that it could digest them like other food; but, the ostrich being opened, about 80 nails were found entire in its stomach.

All the creatures that are here shewn are regularly fed with food proper for them, and as carefully attended as if they were indeed of royal dignity. This takes off much of their savage nature, and makes them tame and submissive, and perhaps contributed not a little to disappoint the expectations of king *James I.* when he made trial of the fierce nature of the lion; for that prince having ordered a lion to be turned out of his den, and a bear to be put to him, the lion refused to attack the bear: they

they tried another, and at length two together, but in vain; the lions discovered plain symptoms of fear, by making to their dens. Such were the effects of indolence and high feeding upon animals, the most remarkable of any for courage and ferocity.

Of the SPOILS of the INVINCIBLE ARMADA.

WHEN you enter the great gate of the Tower, one of the warders will attend you, and carry you in regular order to the several places where the curiosities are shewn; the first of which is situated to the southward of the White Tower, and in it are repositied the SPOILS of the INVINCIBLE ARMADA (as it was styled by *Philip II. of Spain*), in order to perpetuate to latest posterity the memory of that signal victory obtained by the *English* over the whole naval power of *Spain*, which will ever make the reign of *Queen Elizabeth* glorious in the *British* annals. The ARMADA, when it rendezvouz'd at the *Groyne*, under the command of the duke of *Medina Sidonia*, consisted of 132 ships, including transports, on board of which were embarked 19,290 soldiers, 8,350 sailors, 2,080 galley slaves, and 2,630 pieces of cannon, which, at that time of day, when ships of 1200 tons carried hardly 60 pieces of ordnance, was a prodigious force. On the 21st of *July*, 1588, this formidable fleet appeared off *Plymouth*, and was met there by the *English* under the command of lord *Effingham*, lord high admiral, *Drake*, *Hawkins*, and *Forbisher*; when both fleets immediately formed the line of battle. The van of the *Spanish* fleet was led by *Alphonso de Leyva*; the duke of *Medina* commanded the center; and *Juan Martinez de Ricaldo*, the rear.

The

The lord high admiral of *England*, in his own ship, called the *Ark Royal*, seconded by the rest of his squadron, fell upon *Levy's* division, and a terrible engagement ensued; but *Drake*, *Hawkins*, and *Forbisher*, mutually supporting each other where the danger was greatest, and taking the advantage of the enemy, where they observed them weakest, put their rear into disorder, and forced them upon their center, which occasioned some confusion; but night coming on, obliged both parties to lay-by; and the *English*, being ill provided with ammunition and stores, were in no haste to renew the engagement, well knowing that every day would weaken their adversaries, and increase their own strength. Accordingly, the very night after the first engagement, one of their ships of the line by some accident blew up, and the fire from her communicating itself to the ship whereof Don *Pedro de Valdez* was captain, she fell an easy prize to admiral *Drake*, who sent her into *Dartmouth*. This was looked upon as a favourable omen of complete victory. Two whole days, however, were spent in repairing the damages sustained on both sides, in which time the *English* were continually reinforced from the neighbouring ports with men, ammunition, and ships, which enabled them on the 23d, after some time spent in striving to gain the wind, to fight the enemy on more equal terms than in the preceding engagement, and, having gained their point, fell upon *Ricalao's* squadron with their whole force, and would certainly have destroyed it. had not the *Spanish* admiral made a gallant attempt for his preservation.

Then the fight became general; and the *English* managed their ships with so much ease
and

and dexterity, that the unwieldy *Spaniards*, who lay like hulks in a dead calm, could make but little use of their superior strength, orders having been given by the *English* commander in chief, to avoid by all means a close engagement; by which, as the enemy's ships were full of men, a great slaughter was made of them, without suffering in return any considerable loss. In this manner a sort of running fight was maintained for two days, with no decisive advantage on either side, other than what arose from the disparity of numbers killed.

It should have been remarked, that, according to the original plan of this invasion, the *Spanish* admiral was to have been joined in the *British* channel by the duke of *Parma*, with a body of 30,000 land forces from the *Spanish Netherlands*; but, seeing no appearance of their arrival, he had dispatched express after express to hasten their embarkation; and at length set sail himself to the streights of *Calais* to facilitate their junction. This motion had been foreseen, and a strong squadron of 40 sail, under lord *Henry Seymour* and Sir *William Winter*, were properly stationed, as well to block up the ports from whence those succours were to embark, as to watch the future motions of the *Spanish* admiral. This was a noble stroke of policy, and was soon followed by another, that ruined their whole project, and put an end to the great consternation that had overspread the whole nation on the first appearance of so vast an armament.

When it was discovered by the lord high admiral what course the *Spaniards* had steered, a council of war was immediately called, wherein it was resolved not to lose a moment from pursuing them; on this occasion admiral *Drake*, whose presence of mind never failed him on

the most pressing emergencies, bethought himself of an expedient to distress the enemy without risking the Queen's ships in so unequal a conflict. Thus, having communicated his scheme to the commander in chief, it was resolved to put it in execution, and the rather, as the contrivance was new, and consequently unsuspected. Accordingly, eight old and shattered ships were hastily fitted up, and filled with all sorts of combustibles; and when the fleet came up with the enemy, who lay at anchor off *Calais*, waiting for the duke of *Parma*, those ships were secretly dispatched in the night, with proper instruction to their respective captains, to grapple at proper distances, where the enemy were closest in the line, observing always to keep the wind; and, when properly stationed, to set them on fire, and then bring off their men: this was executed under the direction of the captains *Prowse* and *Young*, with all imaginable success; for while the *Spaniards*, thinking themselves surprized, were preparing for an attack, the captains of the fire ships did their business; and in little more than an hour the whole ocean seemed on fire, as if to devour what she could not swallow up of that presumptuous Armada, which had braved the Majesty of Heaven, been blessed by the Pope, and pronounced invincible. Now nothing but horror, confusion, and hurry, ensued; some were on fire, some fell foul of others, some cut their cables, and drove on shore; and had it not been for the calmness of the duke of *Medina*, their whole fleet had that night perished with their hopes; but he seeing the danger, and penetrating the cause, ordered his fleet to separate, every one shifting for himself, and to rendezvous next morning at *Graveling*: though these
were

were the sagest orders that could have been issued in the present dilemma, yet the *English* reaped from the consequences all the advantages they could have wished; it furnished them with an opportunity of attacking their huge ships singly with what force they thought proper; and of coming to a general engagement, before the *Spaniards* were recovered from the dreadful panic with which they were struck. *Drake* and *Forbisher*, experienced sea officers as ever the world produced, well knew how to improve this critical turn of fortune in their favour, and resolutely attacked the duke of *Medina's* own squadron before it could be half formed, and made terrible havock; while the other commanders were as vigilant in seeking out the scattered remains of *Levy's* and *Ricaldo's*: in a word, the sea seemed covered with wrecks; and the flower of the *English* nobility, who had waited on shore for the event of this engagement, seeing all fears over from the *Spaniards* landing, flocked on board the ships, which were now increased to the number of 150 sail, to be sharers in the glory of delivering their country from slavery and papal tyranny.

In vain did the duke of *Medina*, in this lamentable distress, endeavour to regain the *British* channel; winds as well as waves fought against him, and drove him on the coast of *Zeland*, where he must have perished, without any other enemies than tides, shelves, rocks, and sands, had not Providence reserved him to experience farther dangers.

The *English*, well knowing that they must inevitably share in one common destruction if they pursued, prudently gave over the chase; and the duke, having now no other views than those of self-preservation (the wind chopping

about in the very instant of his greatest danger), called a council of war, in which it was resolved to sail for *Spain*, by the northern passage. In this resolution they weighed anchor; but a storm arose, that crossed their hopes for a while, and left them once more at the mercy of the *English*, who, penetrating their design, pursued them beyond the Firth of *Edinburgh*, tho' with no other advantage, than that of weakening their crippled ships still more, and exposing them thereby to the fury of the first tempest that happened, which afterwards effectually destroyed them.

In the several engagements on the *British* coast, 15 of their stoutest ships, besides transports, were either destroyed or taken: on the coast of *Ireland*, some were sunk, some dashed to pieces against the rocks, some run on sands, and some were burnt by the *Spaniards* themselves. Between the rivers of *Lochfoille* and *Lochswille*, on the north coast, 9 were stranded, and the crews forced to seek for succour among the wild *Irish*. In the bay of *Colbeggy*, three more run upon the rocks, and most of the men perished. In the bay of *Barreys*, a large ship of 1000 tons, and 54 fine brass cannon, was sunk, and all on board perished, saving 16, who, by their apparel, seemed persons of great distinction. On the coast of *Thomond*, two ships more perished, one whereof they fired; the other was lost off *St. Sebastian's*, and had 300 men on board, 240 of whom were drowned. Before *Sir Turlough Obrione's* house, another great ship was lost, supposed to be a *Galleon*. In short, from the 21st of *July*, when this vaunting Armada was first beaten by the *English*, until the 10th of *September* following, when the shattered remains of it passed the *Irish* coast, it should

should seem that it had never one good day or night; so that of 132 ships that arrived in the *British* channel, scarce 70 of them returned home again; and of 30,000 souls on board, upwards of 20,000 were either killed, or drowned, or remained prisoners in *England*.—Such was the fate of this vain-glorious enterprise.

The Reliques that are preserved here of this memorable Victory, so glorious for our Country, together with some other curiosities of the like Kind, are,

1. The common soldiers pikes, 18 feet long, pointed with long sharp spikes, and shod with iron; which were designed to keep off the horse, to facilitate the landing of their foot.

2. The *Spanish* officers lances, finely engraved; these were formerly gilt, but the gilding is now almost worn out with cleaning.—I here is a story current concerning these: that when Don *Pedro de Valdez*, already mentioned, passed examination before lord *Burleigh*, he told his lordship, that those fine-polished lances were put on board to bleed the *English* with; to which that nobleman reply'd jokingly, that, if he was not mistaken, the *English* had performed that operation better on their good friends the *Spaniards* with worse instruments.

3. The *Spanish* Ranceur, made in different forms, which were intended either to kill the men on horseback, or pull them off their horses. At the back is a spike, with which, they tell you, they were to pick the roast beef out of the *Englishmen's* teeth.—On one of them is a piece of silver coin, which they intended to make current; on it are three heads, supposed to be the *Pope's*, *Philip II's*, and queen *Mary's*.—

This is a curiosity that most *Spaniards* come to see.

4. An uncommon piece of arms, being a pistol and a shield, so contrived as to fire the pistol, and cover the body at the same time with the shield. It is to be fired by a match-lock; and the sight of the enemy is to be taken through a little grate in the shield, which is pistol-proof.

5. A small train of 10 pieces of pretty little cannon, neatly mounted on proper carriages, being a present from the foundery of *London* to king *Charles I.* when a child, to practise the art of gunnery with. These, tho' no part of the *Spanish* spoils, are yet a great curiosity.

6. The banner with a crucifix upon it, which was to have been carried before the *Spanish* general. On it is engraven the Pope's benediction before the *Spanish* fleet sailed: for the Pope came to the waterside, and on seeing the fleet blessed it, and, as has been said, styled it INVINCIBLE.

7. *Danish* and *Saxon* clubs, which weapons those people jointly are said to have used in the conquest of *England*, and are, perhaps, curiosities of the greatest antiquity of any in the *TOWER*, having lain there about 850 years. The warders call them the *Women's Weapons*, because, say they, the *British* women made a prize of them, when in one night they all conspired together, and cut the throats of 35,000 *Danes*; the greatest piece of secrecy the *English* women ever kept, for which they have ever since been honoured with the right-hand of the man, the upper end of the table, and the first cut of every dish of victuals they happen to like the best.—Indeed, in 1002, a prodigious slaughter was made of the *Danes*, on the feast of *St. Brice*, not by the secret conspiracy of the women alone, but by the
the

the private orders of *Ethelred* II. who commanded his officers on that day to extirpate the whole race of the *Danes* out of his dominions at once, sparing neither man, woman, nor child; which orders were so punctually obeyed, that only about 16, who got on board a ship, escaped; but these alarming their countrymen, they afterwards returned, and took a severe revenge.

8 The *Spanish* cravats, as they are called; these are engines of torture, made of iron, and put on board to lock the feet, arms, and heads, of *English* heretics together.

9. *Spanish* bilboes, made of iron likewise, to yoke the *English* prisoners two and two.

10. *Spanish* shot, which are of four sorts; spike-shot, star-shot, chain-shot, and link-shot, all admirably contrived, as well for the destruction of the masts and rigging of ships, as for the sweeping the decks of their men. But some attribute the invention of these to admiral *Drake*, to be employed against the *Spaniards*.

11. *Spanish* spadas poisoned at the points, so that, if a man received but ever so slight a wound with one of those, it proved certain death.

12. *Spanish* halberts, or spears, some whereof are curiously engraven and inlaid with gold.

13. The axe, with which queen *Ann Bullen* (mother to queen *Elizabeth*) was beheaded. This was performed *May* 19, 1526, a little before noon, by an executioner sent for on purpose from *Calais*. At the time of her death she was not quite 30 years of age, and fell a sacrifice to the jealousy, or rather caprice, of *Henry VIII.* to whom she was lawfully married. The earl of *Essex* (queen *Elizabeth's* favourite) was likewise beheaded with the same ax.

14. A *Spanish* pole-axe, used in boarding of ships.

15. Thumb-screws, of which there were several chests full on board the *Spanish* fleet. The use they were intended for is said to have been to extort confession from the *English* where their money was hid, had that cruel people prevailed. Certain it is, that, after the defeat, the whole conversation of the court and country turned upon the discoveries made by the *Spanish* prisoners of the racks, the wheels, and the whips of wire, with which they were to scourge the *English*, of every rank, age, and sex. The most noted heretics were to be put to death; those that survived were to be branded on the forehead with a hot iron; and the whole form of government, both in church and state, was to be overturned.

16. The *Spanish* morning-star; a destructive engine resembling the figure of a star, of which there were many thousands on board, and all of them with poisoned points; and were designed to strike at the enemy as they came on board in case of a close attack.

17. The *Spanish* general's halbert, covered with velvet. All the nails of this weapon are double-gilt with gold; and on its top is the Pope's head curiously engraven.

18. A *Spanish* battle-axe, so contrived as to strike four holes in a man's scull at once; and has besides a pistol in the handle with a match-lock.

19. King *Henry* the VIII's walking-staff, which has three match lock pistols in it, with coverings to keep the charges dry. With this staff, the warders tell you, the king walked round the city sometimes, to see that the constables did their duty; and one night, as he was walking

walking near the bridge-foot, the constable stopt to know what he did with such a mischievous weapon at that time of the night; upon which the king struck him; but the constable calling the watchmen to his assistance, his majesty was apprehended and carried to the *Poultry Compter*, where he lay confined till morning, without either fire or candle. When the keeper was informed of the rank of his prisoner, he dispatched a messenger to the constable, who came trembling with fear, expecting nothing less than to be hanged, drawn, and quartered; but, instead of that, the king applauded his resolution, in honestly doing his duty, and made him a handsome present.

20. A large wooden cannon, called *Policy*, because, say your guides, when *Henry VIII.* besieged *Bologne*, the roads being impassable for heavy cannon, he caused a number of those wooden ones to be made, and mounted on proper batteries before the town, as if real cannon, which so terrified the *French* commandant, that, when he beheld a formidable train, as he thought, just ready to play, he gave up the town without firing a shot.—The truth is, the duke of *Suffolk*, who commanded at this siege under the king, soon made himself master of the lower town; but it was not till seven weeks afterwards that the upper town capitulated, in which time the *English* sustained great loss.

21. The last thing they shew of these memorable spoils, is the *Spanish* general's shield, not worn by, but carried before him as an ensign of honour. On it are depicted, in most curious workmanship, the labours of *Hercules*, and other expressive allegories, which seem to throw a shade upon the boasted skill of modern artists. The

date is 1376, near 100 years before the art of printing was known in *England*.

The inscription upon it is as follows, in *Roman* characters, tolerably engraven; ADULTERIO DEIANIRA CONSPURCANS OCCIDITVR CACVS AB HERCUL. OPPRIMITVR 1379; alluding to the killing of *Cacus* by *Hercules*, for adultery with his wife *Dejanira*.

22. Some weapons made with the part of a scythe fixed on a pole, which was taken from the duke of *Monmouth's* party at the battle of *Sedgemoor* in the reign of *James II.*

23. The partizans that were carried at the funeral of king *William III.*

24. At the upper end of the room is a great canopy, inclosed with Gothic arches and pillars, which, when drawn up, presents to view three very striking figures; the first *Q. Elizabeth* alighting from her horse to go to review her fleet at *Tillbury*. She is superbly dressed in the armour she had on at the time above-mentioned, with a rich white silk petticoat, curiously ornamented with pearls, spangles, &c. Her robe or upper dress is rich crimson sattin, laced with gold and fringed. Her hair is finely ornamented with pearls.

Just by her side stands the second figure, a fine cream-coloured horse, his bridle curiously ornamented with gilt metal; the saddle covered with crimson velvet, laced also with gold and fringed.

At the head of the horse stands the third figure, a page holding the bridle with his left hand, and the queen's helmet with a plume of white feathers thereon in his right. This page is dressed in a silk snuff-coloured garment lined with blue, with a blue silk sash fringed with gold, according to the fashion of that time. The whole together makes a most elegant appearance.

Of

Of the SMALL ARMORY.

TO this curiosity we are led by a small folding door adjoining to the east end of the Tower chapel, the ascent to which is by a grand staircase of 50 easy steps. When you enter the armory itself, you will see what they call a wilderness of arms, so artificially disposed, and so admirably ranged, that at one view you behold arms for near 80,000 men, all bright and clean, and fit for service at a moment's warning; a sight that none ever beheld without astonishment, and is not to be matched perhaps in the world. New-formed pilasters with pistol cornices.

1. Some arms taken at *Bath* in the year 1715. These are distinguished from all others in the Tower, by having what they call dog-locks, which kind of locks have a ketch to secure them from going off at half-cock.

2. Bayonets and pistols put up in the form of half-moons and fans, with the imitation of a target in the center, made up of bayonet blades; these bayonets, of which you will observe several other fans composed, are of the first invention, having plug-handles, which go into the muzzle of a gun, instead of over it, and thereby prevent the firing of the piece without shooting away the bayonet. These were invented at *Bayonne* in *Spain*, from whence they take their name.

3. Brass blunderbusses for sea-service, with capitals of pistols over them; the waves of the sea are here represented in old fashioned bayonets.

4. Bayonets and sword-bayonets, in the form of half-moons and fans, and set in scollop-shells finely carved: the sword-bayonet is made like the old bayonet with a plug-handle, only different from it by being longer.

B 5

5. The

5. The arms taken from Sir *William Perkins*, Sir *John Friend*, *Charnock*, and others concerned in the assassination plot in 1696; among which they shew the very blunderbuss with which they intended to shoot king *William* near *Turnham-Green*, in his way to *Hampton-Court*; also the carbine with which *Charnock* undertook to shoot that monarch as he rode a-hunting.

6. Lastly, you are shewn the Highlanders arms, taken in 1715; particularly the earl of *Mar's* fine piece, exquisitely wrought, and inlaid with mother of pearl; also a Highland broadsword, with which a Highlander struck general *Evans* over the head, and at one blow cut him through his hat, wig, and iron scull-cap; on which that general is said to have shot him dead; others say, he was taken prisoner, and generously forgiven for his bravery. Here is also the sword of Justice (having a sharp point), the sword of Mercy (having a blunt point), carried before the Pretender when proclaimed in *Scotland* in 1715; some of the Highlanders pistols, the barrels and stocks being all iron; also a Highlander's *Loughabor* ax, with which it is said colonel *Gardiner* was killed at the battle of *Preston Pans*.

A discerning eye will discover a thousand peculiarities in the disposition of so vast a variety of arms, which no description can reach; and therefore it is fit that every one, who has a taste for the admirable combination of art, should gratify that darling passion with the sight of a curiosity, the noblest in its kind the world affords.

* * At present (1787) this edifice is under reparation; but will soon be restored, the arms cleaned, and replaced in the same or a more beautiful order.

Of

Of the ROYAL TRAIN of ARTILLERY.

BENEATH the small armory, on a ground-floor of equal dimensions, is a royal train of artillery, which one cannot view without a kind of awful dread. To see so many and such various engines of destruction, before whose dreadful thunder, churches, palaces, pompous edifices, the noblest works of human genius, fall together in one common and undistinguished ruin : one cannot, I say, reflect upon this, without wishing that the horrible invention had still lain, like a false conception in the womb of nature, never to have been ripened into birth.

At your entrance you are shewn 2 copper cannon, 3-pounders, on wheels, which were taken from the gate of the governor's house at *Quebec*.

You are then shewn 2 mortars, and upwards of 20 fine pieces of cannon, lately taken from the *French at Cherburgh*. Their description, date, and weight, are as follows :

Two MORTARS, both inscriptions alike.	
<i>Date when made.</i>	<i>Weight.</i>
1684	2840

Kellri Helvetii fecit Duaci.

Kellerius Helvetius made it at Douay.

Non Solis radios, sed Jovis fulmina.

Not the rays of the sun, but Jupiter's thunder.

The CANNON.

1709	HECUBE.	Hecuba.	4090
<i>Inscr. Ultima Ratio Regum, Louis Charles de Bourbon, Conte D'Eu, Duc Duma'e.</i>			

The last Resort of Kings, Louis Charles of Bourbon, Earle d'Eu, Duke of Dumale.

Pluribus nec impar. Beren. Donicourt fec.

A match for many. Berenger Donicourt maker.

B 6

Date

Date when made.

Weight.

1739 NITOCRIS. The Splendor, spiked up. 4080

Inscription as the former.

1730 L'EMERILLION. The Merlin, 5320

1748 LE TEMERAIRE. The Rash. 5980

1748 AUGUSTE. The Augustus, spiked up. 5770

1748 ANTONIN. The Anthony, spiked up. 5740

1748 L'INSENSIBLE. The Insensible, spiked 5660

1741 LE MALEFAISANT. The Mischievous,
spiked up. 5500

1750 LE VANQUEUR. The Conqueror, sp. 5670

1732 LE JUSTE. The Just, spiked up. 5490

1730 LE DIVINERESSE. The Conjuror. 4000

1745 L'IMPERIEUSE. The Imperious, sp. 4160

1744 LA FURIEUSE. The Furious. 4160

1744 LA VIOLENTE. The Violent, spiked. 4150

1719 LA SAGE. The Wise. 4346

1720 LA MORESQUE. The Blackmoor. 3080

1751 LA DILIGENCE. The Diligence, sp. 3960

1751 LA LABORIEUX. The Laborious, sp. 3302

1751 LE RENOMME. The Renown, spiked. 3367

1742 LE FOUDRANT. The Dreadful, sp. 3367

1742 L'ULYSSE. The Ulysses. 2353

2. Two large pieces of cannon employed by admiral *Vernon* before *Carthage*; they have each a large scale driven out of their muzzles by balls from the castle of *Bocca Chica*.

3. Two carved pieces, of excellent workmanship, presented by the city of *London* to the young duke of *Gloucester*, queen *Anne*'s son, to learn him the art of war.

4. Four small mortars in miniature, for the throwing hand granadoes, the invention of colonel *Brown*. They are fired with a lock like a common gun; but have not been introduced into practice.

5. Two fine brass cannons taken from the walls of *Vigo* by the late lord *Cobham*, in 1704.

Their

Their breaches represent lions couchant, with the effigies of St. *Barbary*, to whom they were dedicated.

6. A petard for the bursting open city or castle gates.

7. A large train of fine brass battering cannon, 24-pounders; never yet used.

8. A parcel of cannon of a new invention, from 6 to 24 pounders. Their superior excellence consists, first, in their lightness; the 24 pounders weighing not quite 1700 weight, whereas formerly they weighed 5000, the rest are in proportion; and, 2dly, in the contrivance for leveling them, which is by a screw, instead of beds and coins. This new method is more expeditious, and saves two men to a gun, and is said to be the invention of his late Royal Highness the duke of *Cumberland*.

9. Brass mortars, 13 inches diameter, which throw a shell of 3000 weight; with a number of lesser mortars and shells in proportion.

10. A carcase, which they fill at sieges with pitch, tar, and other combustibles, to set towns on fire; it is thrown out of an 18-inch mortar, and will burn two hours where it happens to fall.

11. A *Spanish* mortar, of 12 inches diameter, taken on board a ship in the *West-Indies*.

12. Six *French* pieces of cannon, 6-pounders, taken from the rebels at the battle of *Culloaen*, fought *April 16, 1746*. The battle lasted but 35 minutes; but the slaughter was so great, that 3000 rebels fell on the spot: it is said that lord *Kingston's* horse killed 10 or 12 of them a-piece in the pursuit.

13. A beautiful piece of ordnance, made for king *Charles I.* when prince of *Wales*. It is finely ornamented with several emblematical devices, among

38 *Of the TOWER of LONDON,*

among which is an eagle throwing a thunderbolt in the clouds.

14. A train of field-pieces, called the galloping train, carrying a ball of one pound and a half each.

15. A destroying engine, that throws 30 hand-granadoes at once, and is fired by a train.

16. A most curious brass cannon made for prince *Henry*, eldest son to king *James I.* the ornamenting whereof is said to have cost 200l. It is inscribed with the makers' names, *Thomas* and *Richard Pitt*, 1608, who, no doubt, were proud of the performance, which is indeed admirable.

17. A piece with seven bores, for throwing so many bullets at once; and another with three, made as early as *Henry VIIIth's* time.

18. The drum-major's chariot of state, with the kettle-drums placed; it is drawn by 4 white horses, at the head of the train, when upon a march.

19. Two *French* field-pieces, taken at the battle of *Hochstadt*, in 1704, in which the *French* had 12,000 men killed, 5000 wounded, and more than 30,000 taken prisoners.

20. An iron cannon of the first invention, being bars of iron hammered together, and hooped from top to bottom with iron hoops, to prevent its bursting. It has no carriage, but was to be moved from place to place by means of six rings fixed to it at proper distances.

21. A huge mortar, weighing upwards of 6000 weight, and throwing a shell of 500 weight two miles: this mortar was fired so often against *Namur*, in king *William's* time, that the very touch-hole is melted, for want of giving it time to cool.— This siege is one of the most memorable in history. The place was thought to be impregnable, and

and yet taken from a complete army within, headed by a marshal of *France*, in the sight of 100,000 men without, that came to relieve it. Lord *Cutts* commanded the *English* at the general assault of the castle, where he acquired the name of the *English* Salamander. Scarcely an officer or soldier in his corps came off unhurt; the greatest part fell in the action, than which none was ever more desperate.

22. A fine twisted brass cannon, 12 feet long, made in *Edward* the VIth's time, called *Queen Elizabeth's* pocket-pistol; which your guides, by way of joke, will tell you she used to wear on her right side when she rode a-hunting.

23. Two brass cannon, three bores each, carrying 6 pounders, taken by the duke of *Marlborough* at the battle of *Ramillie*. Here the famous *French* household troops, which had been boasted of as impenetrable, were totally defeated and ruined: the *French* had 8000 men killed, and 6000 taken prisoners.

24. A mortar that throws 9 shells at a time, out of which the balloons were fired at the great fire-works in 1746.

25. A very curious brass cannon finely carved, weight 52 cwt. 3 qrs. 18lb. carrying 24-pounders, with lord *Ligonier's* coat of arms upon it, and the names of his majesty's principal officers of ordnance, as under;

The right honourable *John* lord viscount *Ligonier*, master-general.

The most honourable *John* marquis of *Granby*, lieutenant-general.

The honourable Sir *Charles Frederick*, knight of the Bath, surveyor-general.

The honourable *Rawlinson Earl*, esq;

Andrew Wilkinson, esq;

Charles Cocks, esq;

Besides

Besides those above enumerated, there are in this store-room a vast number of brass cannon, all new, together with sponges, ladders, rammers, hand-spikes, wadhooks, &c. wherewith the walls are lined all round; and under the cieling there hang on poles upwards of 4000 harness for horses, besides mens harness, drag-ropes, &c. This room which is at least 380 feet in length, 50 wide, and 24 high; has a passag in the middle 16 feet wide, on each side of which the artillery are placed. In it are 20 pillars for supporting the small armory above; all hung round with implements of war; and, besides the trophies of standards, colours, &c. taken from the enemy, it is now adorned with the transparent and well coloured pictures brought hither from the fireworks played off at the conclusion of the last peace.

Of the HORSE ARMORY.

HERE the spectator is entertained with a perfect representation of those illustrious kings and heroes of our own nation, of whose gallant actions he has heard and read so much; all of them equipped and sitting on horseback, in the same bright and polish'd armour they were used to wear at the very time when those glorious deeds were performed, which will be for ever remembered to their praise.

But before you are introduced to those noble and animated figures, which exhibit a lively picture of the Knights in ancient chivalry, your wonder will be excited by being shewn one of the most complicated machines that the ingenuity of man was ever capable of constructing. It is a perfect model of those astonishing works first erected at *Derby* by *Sir Thomas Lombe*, for making organzine

organzine or thrown silk. This ingenious gentleman made two attempts, at the hazard of his life, for the completing of this machine, which by means of a friar he at length effected; and having obtained the sanction of an act of parliament in 1742, by which 14,000*l.* was paid him as a reward for discovering and introducing the said machine, he finally compleated it, and brought it into use.—The following is a brief account of its parts: It contains 26,586 wheels, and 97,746 movements, which work 93,726 yards of silk thread every time the water-wheel goes round, which is thrice in one minute, and 318,504,960 yards in twenty-four hours. One water-wheel gives motion to the rest of the wheels and movements, of which any one may be stopt separately. One fire engine conveys warm air to every part of the machine, and one regulator governs the whole work.

No doubt, but in ascending the stair case, just as you come to the landing-place, by casting your eye inward, you have seen the figure of a grenadier in his accoutrements, as if upon duty, with his piece resting upon his arm, which at first glance a stranger is apt to mistake for real life, so admirably has the painter discovered the excellence of his art in the representation of this centinel. Having entered the room, you first behold a great number of iron caps and breast-plates, most of which were in use in the last German war, but the only one that was wont to be shewn as a curiosity hangs upon a beam on the left hand as you pass through the entry; it has had the lower edge of the left side carried away by a flant shot of a cannon-ball; and, as an old war-der used to tell the story, the rim of the man's belly that wore it, and part of his bowels, were carried away at the same time; notwithstanding which,

which, being put under the care of a skilful surgeon, the man recovered, and lived ten years afterwards. This story the old warder constantly told to all strangers, till his R. H. Prince *Frederic*, father of the present king, coming to see the curiosities in the Tower, and it falling to the old man's lot to attend his highness; when he came to this breast-plate, he repeated to him his accustomed tale: his royal highness listened to him with seeming pleasure, and when he had done, looking upon him with a smile, "And what, friend, says he, is there so extraordinary in all this? I remember myself to have read in a book, of a soldier who had his head cleft in two so dextrously by the stroke of a scymitar, that one half of it fell on one shoulder, and the other half of it on the opposite shoulder; and yet, on his comrade's claping the two sides nicely together again, and binding them close with his handkerchief, the man did well, drank his pot of ale at night, and scarcely recollected that ever he had been hurt."—This similar story, so seasonably applied, put all the company that attended his royal highness into a horse laugh, which so dashed the old warder, that he never had courage to tell his story again; so that the poor battered breast-plate has lain unnoticed ever since.

I have already said, that the breast-plates here laid up were almost all in use in the German war; but they were not thought necessary at first, till the want of them was felt at the battle of *Dittingen*, when the black musketeers of the enemy, being covered with their cuirasses (the same piece of armour, with the addition of a back-piece), pierced the very lines of our army, and rode up undaunted to the muzzles of our guns, till being flanked by our foot, and ill-supported

ported by their own troops, they were forced to retreat, though with an inconsiderable loss, considering their desperate attempt. This plainly discovered the great use of breast-plates, and orders were sent to *England* for the immediate embarkation of all that were in the Tower fit for service. In the wars of Queen *Anne*, there was the same omission, till the duke of *Marlborough*, being convinced of the disadvantage his horse fought under against an enemy entrenched as it were in iron, sent lord *Cadogan* over, who went himself to the Tower, and chose out as many breast and back-plates as he could find for his purpose; but the duke would not suffer the latter to be worn, being, as he said, an useless incumbrance; for he was sure *his* men would never shew their backs to the enemy: most of these breast-plates are musket-proof; they are quilted on the inside, and so contrived as to cover the whole trunk of the body, and yet, by the manner of fixing them on, are very little trouble to the wearer. There are likewise to be seen here a great many cuirasses taken from the *French* out of a ship called the *Holy Ghost*, and marked *Torras*, perhaps the admiral's name.

What has been said above is rather by way of remark than description. — When you enter the room, the first thing your conductor presents to your notice is,

1. The figures of the horse and foot, on your left-hand, supposed to be drawn up in military order, to attend the kings on the other side of house: these figures are as big as the life, and have lately been painted, and look indeed very noble.

2. A large tilting lance of *Charles Brandon*, duke of *Suffolk*, king Henry the VIIIth's general in *France*. — This nobleman excelled at the then fashion-

fashionable diversion of tilting; and, engaging king *Henry VIII.* who was likewise passionately fond of that royal exercise, gave the king such a shock with his spear, that it had like to have cost him his life. The duke's valour had indeed been sufficiently tried in *France*, when he attended princess *Mary of England* on her marriage with *Lewis XIIIth.*—On this occasion, *Frances de Valois*, presumptive heir to the crown of *France*, being willing to give some notable proof of his valour, caused jousts to be proclaimed: these jousts continued three days, in which 305 men at arms were answered by their defendants; of whom some were so hurt, that they died soon after. *Francis* had chosen the duke and the marquis of *Dorset*, two of his aids, and, being hurt himself at first, desired the duke and marquis to fight at barriers, who therefore took the first place against all comers. In the mean time, *Francis*, as was thought, intending an affront to the duke, caused a *German*, the strongest about the court, to be armed secretly, and to present himself; they both did well: yet the duke at last, with the but end of his spear, struck the *German* till he staggered; and then the rail was let fall: having breathed a while, they renewed the fight; when the duke so mauled the *German* about the head, that the blood gushed out at his nose and ears, and then he was secretly conveyed away. Before this encounter, the duke had likewise unhorsed a gentleman at tilts, and hurt him desperately.

3. A complete suit of tilting armour, such as the kings, nobility, and gentlemen at arms, used to exercise in on horseback; at which diversion one of the kings of *France* is said to have been killed by a shiver of a spear striking him in the eye.—Likewise the tilting lance, the rest for the tilting lance, with the grand guard and the flits before

before the eye, through which they take the fight.

4. A complete suit of armour made for king *Henry VIII.* when he was but 18 years of age, rough from the hammer: 'tis at least six feet high, and the joints in the hands, arms, and thighs, knees and feet, play like the joints of a rattle-snake, and are moved with all the facility imaginable — The method of learning the exercise of tilting was upon wooden horses set on castors, which by the sway of the body could be moved every way; so that by frequent practice the rider could shift, parry, strike, unhorse, and recover, with surprizing dexterity. Some of the horses in this armory had undoubtedly been made use of for this purpose; and it is but lately that the castors have been taken from their feet.

5. A little suit of armour made for king *Charles II.* when he was prince of *Wales*, and about 7 or 8 years of age, with a piece of armour for his horse's head; the whole most curiously wrought and inlaid with silver.

6. Lord *Courcy's* armour, who, as the warders tell you, was grand champion in *Ireland*, and, as a proof, shew you the very sword he took from the champion of *France*, for which valiant action he and all his successors have the honour to wear their hats in the king's presence; which privilege, add they, is enjoyed by lord *Knsale*, as head of that ancient and noble family, at this day. — It is recorded indeed of this *Courcy*, that when a conspiracy was formed against him in *Ireland* by his own servants, at the instigation of *Hugh de Lucy*, who was jealous of his power, tho' he was betrayed at his devotions, he laid 13 of the conspirators dead at his feet before he was overpowered. He was afterwards committed prisoner to the Tower of *London*; and it is no improbable
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conjecture, that what is shewn is the very armour he brought with him to that prison.

7. Real coats of mail, called brigantine jackets: they consist of small bits of steel, so artfully quilted one over another, as to resist the point of a sword, or even, I believe, a musket-ball; and yet they are so flexible, that you may bend your body in them any way, as well as in ordinary cloathing.

8. An *Indian* suit of armour, sent as a present to king *Charles II.* from the Great Mogul: this is indeed a great curiosity: it is made of iron quills about two inches long, finely japanned and ranged in rows, one row slipping over another very artificially: they are bound together with silk twist, very strong: they are used in that country as a defence against darts and arrows poisoned or unpoisoned.

9. A neat little suit of armour, in which is a carved figure representing *Richard* duke of *York*, king *Edward IVth's* youngest son, who, with his brother *Edward V.* were smothered in the Tower by order of *Richard III.* commonly called Crook-backed *Richard*, their uncle and guardian. The manner of their death was this: one Sir *James Tyrrel*, a strong resolute fellow, having commission from the king for that purpose, and employing one *Miles Forrest* a notorious ruffian, and *John Deighton* his own groom, these two wretches, by night, entered the room where the young princes, attended only by one servant, were confined; and while they slept smothered them in their bed-cloaths. After this, *Tyrrel* ordered them to be buried at the stair foot, deep under ground, where their bones were actually found in the reign of king *Charles II.* See more of this in the history of Westminster Abbey.

10. The armour of the great *John of Gaunt*, duke of *Lancaster*, who was the son of a king,
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the father of a king, and the uncle of a king, but was never king himself. *Dugdale* says, that more kings and sovereign princes sprung from his loins, than from any king in *Christendom*. He was interred with *Blanch*, his first wife, on the north side of the choir of the old cathedral church of *St. Paul*; and on this monument hung his proper helmet and spear, as also his target covered with horn; which precious reliques were unfortunately consumed, with that stately edifice itself, by the dreadful fire of *London*. The armour here shewn is 7 feet high; and the sword and lance are of an enormous size.

11. The droll figure of *Will Somers*, as the warders tell you, king *Henry VIIIth's* jester; an honest man, say they, of a woman's making—had a handsome woman to his wife, who made him a cuckold; and wears his horns on his head, because they should not wear holes in his pocket.

He would neither believe king, queen, nor any body about the court, that he was a cuckold, till he put on his spectacles to see, being a little dim-sighted, as all cuckolds should be, in which antic manner he is here represented.

12. A collar of torment, which, say your conductors, used formerly to be put about the women's necks that made cuckolds of their husbands, or scolded at them when they came home late; but that custom is left off now-a-days, to prevent quarrelling for collars, there not being smiths enough to make them, as most married men are sure to want them at one time or another.

We come now to the line of kings, which, to follow the order of your conductor, we must reverse the order of their chronolgy, and describe the last first, as

1. His

1. His late majesty king *George II.* in a complete suit of armour richly gilt, sitting with a sword in his hand on a white horse, richly caparisoned, with a fine *Turkey* bridle gilt with gold, with globes, crescents and stars, velvet furniture laced with gold, gold fringe, and gold trappings. This monarch was born at *Hanover* on the 30th of *Octob.*, 1683; came to the crown on the death of his father *George I.* *June 11, 1727*; and died *Oct. 25, 1760*, at his palace at *Kenfington*.

2. King *George I.* in a complete suit of armour, sitting, with a truncheon in his hand, on a white horse, richly caparisoned, having a fine *Turkey* bridle gilt with gold, with a globe, crescent, and star; velvet furniture laced with gold, and gold trappings. This prince was born in 1660; came to the crown on the death of queen *Anne*, *August 1, 1714*; and died *June 11, 1727*, on his journey to *Hanover*.

3. King *William III.* dressed in the very suit of armour worn by *Edward* the Black Prince, son of *Edward III.* in the famous battle of *Cressy*, wherein the *French* lost 11 princes, 18 bannerets, 1200 knights, 1500 gentlemen at arms, 4000 squires, who were mounted on horseback, and 30,000 common men. He is mounted on a sorrel horse, whose furniture is green velvet embroidered with silver, and holds in his right hand a flaming sword. The battle of the *Boyne*, in *Ireland*, and the taking of *Namur*, are the only memorable victories of this warlike king, who was born in 1650, ascended the British throne on the abdication of king *James II.* his father-in-law, *February 13, 1688*; and died *March 8, 1702*, by a fall from his horse.

4. King *Charles II.* dressed in the armour that was worn by the champion of *England* at the coronation of his late majesty. There is nothing

very memorable in this king's story, but his sufferings and his restoration to the crown, after twelve years banishment. He sits, with a truncheon in his hand, on a fine horse richly caparisoned with crimson velvet laced with gold. He was born in 1630, succeeded to the throne on the death of his father *Charles I.* *January 30, 1649*, and died *February 6, 1684*.

5. King *Charles I.* in a rich suit of his own proper armour, gilt with gold and curiously wrought, presented to him by the city of *London* when he was prince of *Wales*; and in the same armour that was laid on the coffin at the funeral procession of the late great duke of *Marlborough*; on which occasion a collar of SS's was added to it, and is now round it.

The civil wars in this prince's reign, and his untimely death, afford a very melancholy story, which will never be forgotten. He was born in 1600, succeeded his father king *James I.* *March 27, 1625*, and was beheaded before his own palace-gates, *January 30, 1649*.

6. *James I.* of *England*, and *VIth* of *Scotland*. By his succeeding to the throne of *England*, on the death of queen *Elizabeth*, the kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, which till then had been at continual wars, were united under one head. He sits on horseback, with a truncheon in his right-hand, dressed in a complete suit of figured armour. He was born in 1566, mounted the *English* throne *March 24, 1603*, and died *March 27, 1625*, after one of the most inglorious reigns of any in the *British* history.

7. King *Edward VI.* the first Protestant prince that ever reigned in *England* (if the father of the Reformation be excepted). He is said by some to have been cut out of the belly of his mother, lady *Jane Seymour*; but that queen lived 12 days
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after her delivery. The memorable acts of his reign are those of charity and beneficence. He gave to the citizens of *London* three hospitals; to wit, that of *Christ-Church*, for the maintenance and education of poor citizens children; that of *Bridewell*, for bringing them up to trades; and that of *St. Thomas*, for healing the sick and diseased. He is dressed in a most curious suit of steel armour, whereon are depicted, in different compartments, a vast variety of scripture histories, alluding to battles, and other memorable passages. He sits on horseback, like the rest, with a truncheon in his right hand. He was born *October 12, 1537*, proclaimed king *January 31, 1548*, and died *July 6, 1553*.

8. King *Henry VIII.* in his own proper armour, being of polished steel, the foliages whereof are gilt, or inlaid with gold. In his right-hand he bears a sword, but whether of cruelty or mercy will hardly, I think, admit a doubt. His reign is marked with the divorce and murder of wives, the destruction of religious houses and monasteries, and by a defiance of all laws divine and human. He was born *June 28, 1491*, succeeded his father *Henry VII.* *April 22, 1509*, and died *January 28, 1547*.

9. *Henry VII.* who killed *Richard III.* in the memorable battle of *Bosworth Field*, and, by marrying *Elizabeth*, eldest daughter of *Edward IV.* united the two famous houses of *York* and *Lancast* r, about whose claims to the throne a deluge of *English* blood had been poured forth. This prince holds likewise a sword in his hand, and sits on horseback, in a complete suit of armour, finely wrought and washed with silver. He was born in 1457; crowned *October 30, 1485*; and died *April 12, 1509*.

10. *Edward V.* who with his brother *Richard*, as has been said, was smothered in the Tower: he was proclaimed king, but never crowned; for which reason a crown is hung over his head: he is in a rich suit of armour finely decorated; and holds in his right-hand a lance.

11. King *Edward IV.* father to the unhappy princes abovementioned: his reign is stained with blood and lust: and tho' he was fortunate in most of his battles, yet his victories were all at the expence of his own subjects. At the battle of *Towton*, 36,000 *English* are said to have been killed; and during his reign, *Guthrie* says, no less than 200,000 *English* lost their lives in the contest between *Henry* of *Lancaster* and this *Edward* of *York*. He was equally formed for love and war; and his gallantries with the citizens wives, among which was the famous *Jane Shore*, are still remembered with detestation. He is here distinguished by a suit of bright armour studded, and by holding in his right-hand a drawn sword. He was born in 1441, began his reign *March* 4, 1460, and died in 1483.

12. King *Henry VI.* who, tho' crowned king of *France* at *Paris*, lost all that kingdom. In his reign no less than 16 battles were fought at home and abroad. The bloody civil wars commenced between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*, already mentioned. The rebellion of *Jack Cade*, who entered *London*, and beheaded lord *Say*, happened in his reign. The famous *Joan* of *Arc*, or *Maid* of *Orleans*, started up also, and spread her fame thro' all *Europe*, by raising the siege of *Orleans*. In his time also the art of printing was introduced into *England*. He was born in 1422, began his reign *August* 31, the same year, (being an infant), and was murdered in the Tower by the duke of *Gloucester* in 1461.

13. The warlike and victorious *Henry V.* who by his conquests in *France* gained immortal glory.

He caused himself to be acknowledged regent and presumptive heir of that kingdom. With only 9000 *English* he defeated 15,000 *French* at the battle of *Agincourt*, where he took more prisoners than he had men in his army. Near *Harfleur*, 15,000 *French* were defeated by 1500 *English*. This prince was Sir *John Falstaff's* companion. He was born in 1389, began to reign *March 20*, 1413, and died *August 31*, 1422. A short reign, but full of glory.

14. *Henry IV.* great *John of Gaunt's* son. His reign is made infamous by a bloody statute to burn hereticks. He was notwithstanding valiant; but his courage was employed to secure himself on a throne to which he had but slight pretensions. Four insurrections against him were defeated, the greatest of which he quelled himself by the battle of *Shrewsbury*, wherein *Harry Hotspur* and 10,000 rebels fell, besides as many of his own troops. He twice beat the *Welch* under *Owen Glendower*. He was born in 1367, ascended the throne *September 20*, 1396, and died *March 20*, 1423.

15. *Edward III.* *John of Gaunt's* father, and father to *Edward the Black Prince*, of whom we have already spoken. Besides the battle of *Cressy*, the ever memorable battle of *Poitiers* was fought by this king, at which *John* king of *France* was taken prisoner, and brought to *England*, where he met *David* king of *Scots*, prisoner there also; and these two accompanied by the king of *England*, and the king of *Cyprus*, who happened to be on his travels to the *English* court, were all entertained at a banquet, by a citizen of *London*, at *Vintner's-Hall*. *David*, king of *Scots*, was afterwards ransomed for 10,000 marks; and *John*,
king

king of *France*, for 500,000 crowns. *Edward* the *Black Prince* died in 1376, to the inexpressible grief of the king and the whole nation; but his son *Richard II.* succeeded to the throne, whereby the famous *John of Gaunt* was excluded. *Edward III.* is represented here with a venerable grey beard, and in a suit of plain bright armour, with two crowns on his sword, alluding to the two kingdoms *France* and *England*, of both which he was crowned king, and was the first who quartered the arms of *France* with his own; adding the motto, *Dieu et mon Droit*. He was born in 1312, called to the throne on the deposition of his father, *January 25. 1326*, and died *June 21, 1377*, after a glorious reign of 50 years.

16. *Edward I.* in a very curious suit of gilt armour, with this peculiarity, that the shoes thereof are of mail. He is represented with a battle-axe in his hand, perhaps to distinguish him from the rest, he being the only king in the line that had employed his arms against the *Turks* and *Infidels*, by an expedition to the *Holy-Land*. The warders tell you, that being there shot with a poisoned arrow, his queen, who accompanied him, sucking the wound, she died, and he lived; and add, that he afterwards brought her corpse over, and buried it in *Westminster-Abbey*: but *Camden*, who reports this fact, tells it thus: "When her husband was treacherously wounded by a *Moor*, with a poisoned dagger, and the wounds, by reason of the malignity of the poison, could not be closed, she licked them daily with her tongue, and sucked out the venomous humour; by the power whereof he was entirely cured of his wound, and she escaped unhurt." This fact happened in 1272: the queen (*Eleanor of Castile*) died at *Herdby* in *Lincolnshire*, *November 29, 1290*, being 18 years after; from whence she

was carried to *Westminster-Abbey*, and there pompously interred by order of her husband. This warlike prince conquered *Wales*; asserted a right of sovereignty over *Scotland*; raised *Baliol* to the throne of that kingdom; and afterwards cited him before the parliament at *Westminster*, to answer to a complaint made against him by the earl of *Fife*. He was every where victorious; and his reign is famed for acts of justice, and is one of the fairest in the *English* history. He was born 1239, made the *Crusade* in his father's life-time, and received the news of his death, and of his own advancement to the crown, in his journey home. He began his reign *November 16, 1272*, and died of the bloody flux, *July 7, 1307*.

17. First in the line, tho' last shewn, sits *William* the Conqueror, duke of *Normandy*, in a suit of plain armour. This valiant prince having, with his *Normans*, on some pretence of right to the crown, invaded *England*, by one decisive battle accomplished his great design. This memorable battle was fought *October 13, 1066*, near *Hastings* in *Suffex*, in which king *Harold*, with the flower of the *English* nobility and the best warriors, were slain. Some authors affirm, that this victory was obtained by means of the broad arrow and long bow which the *Normans* were in possession of, and with which the *English* were then utterly unacquainted; though afterwards they became such expert archers, that with the same weapons they conquered *France*. The glory of *William's* reign and of his victories is stained by the cruel and arbitrary forest laws he enacted, and the waste and devastations he made by converting a tract of land, of more than 60 miles in circumference, into a den of wild beasts, driving the inhabitants out, and filling their habita-

habitations with wolves and boars ; forbidding at the same time those unhappy men, whose lands and properties he had invaded, on pain of death, to kill either deer or wild boar ; for the king, as an historian has it, loved all those wild beasts, as if he had been their father. He was born in 1027, was crowned *October 14, 1066*, and died *September 9, 1087*.

Over the door, as you go out of this armory, is a target, on which are engraved, by a masterly hand, the figures, as it should seem, of Fortune, Fortitude, and Justice ; and, round the room, the walls are every where lined with various old uncommon pieces of armour, such as targets, caps, horses heads, breast plates, and many other forts for which the very names are now wanting.

Of the JEWEL-OFFICE.

WE have already given a description of the place ; and nothing remains, but to give an account of the curiosities contained in it.

And, 1. The imperial crown, that all the kings of *England* have been crowned with since *Edward the Confessor, 1042*. It is of gold, enriched with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and pearls. The cap within is of purple velvet, lined with white taffety, turned up with three rows of ermine.—They are mistaken in shewing this as the ancient imperial diadem of *St. Edward* ; for that (with the other ancient regalia of this kingdom) was kept in the arched room in the cloisters in *Westminster Abbey*, till the grand rebellion, when, in 1642, *Harry Martin*, by order of the then parliament, broke open the iron chest in which it was secured, took it thence, and sold it, together with the robes, sword, and scepter, of *St. Edward*.

After the Restoration, king *Charles II.* had one made like it, which is that now shewn.

2. The golden orb or globe, put into the king's right-hand before he is crowned, and borne in his left, with the scepter in his right, upon his return into *Westminster-Hall* after he is crowned. It is about six inches in diameter, edged with pearl, and enriched with precious stones. On the top is an amethyst, of a violet colour, near an inch and a half in height, set upon a rich cross of gold, adorned with diamonds, pearls, and precious stones. The whole height of the ball and cup is eleven inches.

3. The *Golden Scepter*, with its *Cross*, set upon a large amethyst, of great value, garnished round with table diamonds. The handle of the scepter is plain, but the pommel is set round with rubies, emeralds, and small diamonds. The top rises into a *Fleur de lis* of six leaves, all enriched with precious stones, from whence issueth a mound or ball made of the amethyst already mentioned. The scepter is a very ancient ensign of kingly power. Among the *Jews*, it was used as an emblem of power and royalty, and spiritually as a weapon to oppose the wicked, and protect the good. The cross is quite covered with precious stones.

4. The scepter with the dove, the emblem of peace, perched on the top of a small *Jerusalem* cross, finely ornamented with table diamonds and jewels of great value. This emblem was first used by *Edward the Confessor*, as appears by his seal. It is also marked on the seals of *Henry I.* *Stephen*, and *Henry II.* but omitted by *Richard I.* *Richard II.* assumed it again on his seal; and it was also used by *Edward IV.* and *Richard III.* The ancient one was fold with the rest. This now in the Tower was made after the Restoration.

A bold attempt was made in the reign of king *Charles II.* to carry off these ensigns of royalty, the particulars whereof are worth reciting, and the rather as they are omitted by our later historians, tho' the most singular enterprize that ever was undertaken. The projector of this theft was one colonel *Blood*, by birth a gentleman of *Ireland*, who, having spent his substance in following the fortune of king *Charles II.* while in adversity, thought himself hardly used, by being neglected, when that prince was restored to his just rights; and therefore, after being engaged in several very desperate, though unsuccessful plots, such as surprizing the castle of *Dublin*, seizing the person of the duke of *Ormond*, and others, he at length thought of a scheme to make himself amends, once for all, by seizing the crown, globe, scepter, and dove, carrying them all off together: for this purpose he put himself into the habit of a doctor of divinity, with a little band, a long false beard, a cap with ears, and all those formalities of garb belonging to that degree, except the gown, chusing rather to make use of a cloak, as most proper for his design. Under this disguise he made it his business to get acquainted with the keeper of the regalia, an old man, whom he treated and caressed at a rate not so much expensive as kind and obliging; by which means such a friendship and intimacy was soon established between them, that the old man having a son, and the doctor pretending to have a daughter, they mutually agreed to match them together; but the son being at sea put the pretended daughter under no necessity of appearing. The night before the fact was to be done, the doctor told the old man, that he had some friends at his house that wanted to see the *regalia*, but that they

were to go out of town pretty early in the morning; and therefore hoped he would gratify them with the fight, though they might come a little before the usual hour. (*Blood* had engaged three accomplices, named *Desborough*, *Kelfey*, and *Perrot*, in this enterprize). Accordingly two of them came accompanied by the doctor, about eight in the morning; and the third held their horses that waited for them at the outer-gate of the Tower, ready saddled: they had no other apparatus, but a wallet and a wooden mallet, which there was no great difficulty to conceal. Upon their approach, the old man received them with great civility, and presently admitted them into his office: but, as it is customary for the keeper of the regalia, when he shews them, to lock himself up in a kind of grate with open bars, to the end that those things of high value may be seen but not soiled, the old man had no sooner opened the door of this place, but the doctor and his companions were in at his heels, and without giving him time to ask questions effectually silenced him, by knocking him down with the wooden mallet; they then instantly made flat the bows of the crown, to make it more portable, seized the scepter and dove, and put them into the wallet together, and were preparing to make their escape, when, unfortunately for them, the old man's son, who had not been at home for 10 years before, came from sea in the very nick, and, being told that his father was with some friends that would be very glad to see him at the *Jewel-office*, he posted thither immediately, and met *Blood* and his companions as they were just coming out, who, instead of returning and securing him, as in good policy they ought to have done, pushed forward with their prize, in order to escape; but the young man, seeing his father
weltering

weltering in his blood, and the treasure gone, instantly alarmed the first upon guard, who giving the signal to the rest, the gates were shut, and the criminals secured, all but the man who held the horses, who instantly fled upon the first rumour. Upon searching them, the prize was recovered, though all bruised and battered, and one stone lost, which was afterwards found by a cinder-girl, and restored. The next thing to be done was to confine the prisoners, and to acquaint his majesty with the nature of their offence, and take directions from court how to proceed. The result was, that the king had a fancy to examine *Blood* himself; and, while all men thought that some new punishment would be devised to torture so daring an offender, his majesty thought proper not only to pardon him and his accomplices, but to grant *Blood* a pension, some say of 500l. a year, during his life. What the motives were, that induced his majesty to shew so much lenity to a man who had been engaged in so many plots and conspiracies, is yet a secret, and ever must remain so; many conjectures were formed, and surmises made, but no man knew the truth. *Blood* soon after died with grief, being convicted of a plot against the duke of *Buckingham*, who laid a heavy accusation of *Scandolam Magnatum* against him, by which he was like to remain a prisoner for life: though most people were of opinion, that this plot was forged against him by his enemies; and, having escaped punishment for what he did do, suffered at last for what he did not do. We have but just hinted that *Blood* was engaged in the plot to surprize *Dublin-Castle*, and another to seize the person of the duke of *Ormonde*; of both which, though a little foreign to our subject, we shall give a brief account. Upon the Restoration, many *English*,

Scots, and *Irish*, were dissatisfied, and wanted only a head to lead them into action: colonel *Blood*, having declared himself of their party, was thought a proper person for that purpose; and, as nothing could be attempted in *England* with any probability of success, *Ireland* was pitched upon for the scene of rebellion. The colonel, knowing what advantage it would be to their cause, to be master of some place of strength, proposed to begin with the surprize of *Dublin Castle*; which was accordingly to have been attempted on the 29th of *May*, the anniversary of the king's return, in the following manner: *Blood*, with a company of resolute fellows, were, under a pretence of presenting a petition to the duke of *Ormond*, then lord lieutenant, to have procured admittance, and seized his person, while about 80 chosen foot, in the habit of tradesmen, were to have waited without, and upon a certain signal to have surprized the guards: but this plot, by the treachery of one of the conspirators, having been defeated before it was ripe, a proclamation was issued out, with a reward of five hundred pounds, for the apprehension of any of the ring-leaders; in consequence whereof, one Mr. *Lockey*, brother-in-law to *Blood*, was taken, tried, and executed; and *Blood* himself obliged to make his escape; yet with a strong resolution to be revenged on the duke of *Ormond*, by whose vigilance his views had been disappointed, and his brother-in-law hanged. But it was not till nine years afterwards that he durst attempt any thing upon the duke's person; when having engaged five of his old and trusty friends, on the 6th of *December* 1670, being all well armed and mounted, they beset the duke's coach, as he was passing from *St. James's* palace, thro' the long street that leads to *Clarendon-House*, where the duke then

then refided, and, having knocked out the flam-beaux, and fecured the attendants, they forced the duke out of his coach, and had actually tied him behind one of their affiliates (who was to have rode with him, without ftopping, till he came to an appointed place, where they were to meet him, and confult what advantage they fhould make of their prifoner); when his Grace's porter, being apprized of his mafter's danger, by a boy who concealed himfelf under the coach, and efaped, feafonably came to his refcue; but, what is very furprifing, not one of the ruffians were ever apprehended, tho' a thoufand pounds reward was offered, till the attempt already related difcovered them, and then they were all pardoned. But to return from this long digreffion. The other jewels fhewn here are,

5. *St. Edward's ftaff*, in length four feet feven inches and a half, and three inches and three quarters in circumference, all of beaten gold, which is carried before the king at his coronation.

6. A rich falt-celler of ftate, in form like the fquare White Tower, and fo exquisitely wrought, that the workmanfhip of modern times is in no degree equal to it. It is of gold, and ufed only on the king's table at his coronation.

7. The *curtana*, or fword of mercy, the blade 32 inches long, and near two broad, is without a point, and is borne naked before the king at his coronation, between the two fwords of juftice, fpiritual and temporal.

8. A noble filver font, double-gilt with gold, and elegantly wrought, in which the royal family are chriftened.

9. A large filver fountain, prefented to king *Charles II.* by the town of *Plymouth*, very curioufly

ously wrought, but far short of that already described.

10. The rich crown of state that his majesty wears in parliament, in which is a large emerald seven inches round; a pearl, the finest in the world; and a ruby of inestimable value.

11. His royal highness the prince of *Wales's* crown. These two last-named crowns, when his majesty goes to the parliament-house, are carried by the keeper of the jewel office, attended by the warder, privately in a hackney-coach to *White-hall*; there they are delivered to the officers appointed to receive them, who, with some yeomen of the guard, carry them to the robing rooms, where his majesty and the prince robe themselves. The king wears his crown on his head as he sits upon his throne; but that of the prince of *Wales* is placed before him, to shew that he is not yet come to it. As soon as the king is disrobed, the two crowns are re-conducted to the Tower by the same persons that brought them.

12. Queen *Mary's* crown, globe, and scepter, with the diadem her majesty wore in proceeding to her coronation with her royal consort King *William*.

13. An ivory scepter, with a dove on the top, made for King *James* the Second's queen, whose garniture is gold, and the dove on the top gold, enamelled with white.

14. The golden spurs, and the armillas, which are bracelets for the wrists, very antique, and worn at the coronation.

15. Lastly, the ampulla, or eagle of gold, finely engraved, which holds the holy oil the kings and queens of *England* are anointed with; and the *golden spoon* that the bishop pours the oil into. These are two pieces of great antiquity. The golden eagle, including the pedestal, is about
nine

nine inches high, and the wings expand about seven inches ; the whole weighs about 10 ounces. The head of the eagle screws off about the middle of the neck, which is made hollow, for holding the holy oil ; and when the king is anointed by the bishop, the oil is poured into the spoon out of the bird's beak.

Of this eagle, take the following legend : *St. Thomas Becket*, being in disgrace at *Sens* in *France*, the holy virgin appeared to him, and gave him a stone vessel of oil, inclosed in a golden eagle, and bid him give it to *William*, a monk, to carry to *Pisavia*, and there hide it in *St. Gregory's* church, under a great stone, where it should be found for the use of pious and prosperous kings : accordingly *Henry III.* when duke of *Lancaster*, received it from a holy man in *France* ; and *Richard II.* finding it among other jewels, endeavoured to be anointed with it ; but was supplanted by archbishop *Arundel*, who afterwards anointed *Henry IV.* Such is the fabulous history of the ampulla.

There are in the jewel-office, besides those commonly shewn, all the crown jewels worn by the prince and princes at the coronations, and a vast variety of curious old plate ; but what is already described is sufficient to gratify any moderate curiosity, tho' it must be confessed, that the eye can never be satisfied with seeing, where the objects are so worthy of notice.

Of the MINT.

THERE is no describing the particular processes that the different metals undergo here before stamp into money.

The manner of stamping is all you are permitted to see; and this is very quickly performed by means of an engine, worked sometimes by three men, sometimes by four. The manner of stamping gold and halfpence is exactly the same; only a little more care is necessary in one than in the other, in order to prevent waste. The engine works by a spindle, like that of a printing-press; to the point of which the head of the dye is fixed with a screw, and in a little sort of cup which receives it is placed the reverse: between these the piece of metal, already cut round to the size, and, if gold, exactly weighed, is placed; and by once pulling down the spindle with a jerk, is completely stamped. It is amazing to see how dextrously the coiner performs this; for as fast as the men that work the engine turn the spindle, so fast does he supply it with metal, putting in the unstamped piece with his fore-finger and thumb, and twitching out the stamp with his middle-finger. The silver and gold thus stamp are afterwards milled round the edges, the manner of performing which is a secret never shewn to any body.



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